

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition (FAR 6.3 and 16.505(b)(2)(c))

1. **Contracting Agency and Activity.** The Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, National Acquisition Branch plans to contract by means other than full and open competition. This document sets forth the justification and approval for use of one of the exceptions to full and open competition allowed under the Competition in Contracting Act (CICA) of 1984 and FAR Part 16.505(b)(2)(C).

2. **Nature of Action Being Approved.** The Core Science Systems (CSS) seeks approval of a direct award logical follow-on Task Order (TO) against USGS IDIQ contract number G14PC00051 awarded to Image Matters. This Task Order is a logical follow-on to Task Order G15PD00904 awarded to Image Matters for Technical Support for the Geospatial Platform.

3. **Description of Supplies or Services.** The Task Order is for Technical Support for the Geospatial Platform. The objective of the Technical Support services is to: 1) Provide the technology and organizational framework necessary to support missions and Administration priorities with timely and accurate geospatial data and spatial analytical capabilities; 2) Set up, operate, and provide access to internal and external hosting environments (e.g., cloud) via fee pass-through mechanism; 3) Provide architecture, design, development, operations, and maintenance support for the technical solution that provides access to centrally accessed, remotely managed, common geospatial data, services, applications, and infrastructure and online geospatial and data collaboration tools; and 4) Assist in ensuring existing geospatial infrastructure is utilized most effectively and efficiently.

4. **Estimated Dollar Value.** The estimated dollar value of the Task Order is \$1.4M for the period of October 19, 2016 through October 18, 2017.

5. **Statutory Authority.** FAR Part 16.505(b)(2)(C)- Exceptions to the fair opportunity process, states, *"The order must be issued on a sole-source basis in the interest of economy and efficiency because it is a logical follow-on to an order already issued under the contract, provided that all awardees were given a fair opportunity to be considered for the original order."*

6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.

Per FAR Part 16.505(b)(2)(C)- Exceptions to the fair opportunity process, "The order must be issued on a sole-source basis in the interest of economy and efficiency because it is a logical follow-on to an order already issued under the contract, provided that all awardees were given a fair opportunity to be considered for the original order." The proposed task order is a logical follow-on to Task Order G15PD00904 awarded to Image Matters. Fair opportunity was given to all contract holders as the Task Order's scope of work was originally competed at the time the IDIQ contracts were competed and resulted in an award to Image Matters. The new logical

follow-on TO will have the exact scope of work as the originally competed Task Order (G14PD00850) and current follow-on Task order G15PD00904.

Issuing a follow-on award to Image Matters will avoid a duplication of costs to the Government as it will prevent the Government from experiencing and incurring ramp up costs and delays in the performance start date of 10/19/16.

- The incumbent has efficiently delivered significant functional updates to the Federal GeoPlatform on a quarterly basis since these services began under the first competed task order. They architected a highly efficient and effective development, testing and deployment environment leveraging Amazon Cloud Services. It would take an estimated 90-120 days of downtime for a new firm to replicate a similar development environment, considering the complexity and security involved in transferring knowledge, accounts, security (background investigations and badging).
- The incumbent is currently on schedule to deliver the 5th release of the Geoplatform with significant additional innovative enhancements scheduled for the sixth release that is already under development. The functionality for release 6 and planned for release 7 is unique across governmental and private geographic information systems.
- Image Matters is in the process of radically altering the ability of geographic information system (GIS) analysts to search, discover and use the National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs). This functionality has already been demonstrated in a functional prototype; however because of the novel use of semantic search in conjunction with spatial search it would take at least a year to bring a new firm up to an equivalent level of highly specialized knowledge capable of delivering the required functionality. Switching vendors would create significant delays of at least a year or more in the delivery of the product and supporting information model. The direct cost of switching vendors at this point in time would most probably exceed \$1M, which is not expected to be overcome by any savings achieved through competition of the task order among MAC holders. Delays are not acceptable as, the Government must ensure continuity of service in providing data access to decision makers and responders who rely on geospatial information as a part of organizational mandates.

7. Other Information, N/A

8. The Efforts to Identify Additional Sources Including the Market Research Conducted.


Image Matters has been performing the Technical Support Services for the Geospatial Platform task order successfully. The USGS did not identify additional sources as only the incumbent can perform, as discussed in paragraph 6.

9. Future Plans to Permit Competition.

Future requirements, including this one if the project comes to a point where it can be transitioned to another vendor, will be competed to the maximum extent practical.

10. Recommendation and Certification from Program Office

Based on the above, I recommend this acquisition be conducted on the basis of other than full and open competition. I certify that technical data which form a basis for this justification that are the responsibility of technical or requirements personnel are complete and accurate.


Roxanne Lamb
Program Analyst

Signature

7/28/16
Date

11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer:

a. The contracting officer has determined the anticipated firm-fixed price for the follow-on services will be fair and reasonable as the contractor will be required to charge the USGS the incorporated IDIQ labor rates competed and found to be fair and reasonable at the time the IDIQ contracts were established

b. All of the requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, (41 U.S.C. 253), as implemented in the Federal and Interior Acquisition Regulations, have been considered in preparing this justification. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

12. Approvals


Julie Englehart, Contract Specialist

7/28/2016

Date

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DOYLE

Digitally signed by ROBIN DOYLE
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of the Interior, ou=Geological Survey, cn=ROBIN
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Date: 2016.07.28 13:32:17 -0400

Robin Doyle,
Contracting Officer
Chief, National Acquisition Branch

7/28/2016

Date

JENNIFER
KELLEY

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Date: 2016.07.29 08:03:49 -0400

Jennifer Kelley, Bureau Competition Advocate

Date

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) considers employee signatures to be Personal Protected Information, and therefore all employee signatures have been redacted. By posting this document, the Contracting Officer attests all appropriate signatures have been obtained.